The Last Message of The Prince of Peace

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BY

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The founder of

The Ahmadiyya Movement, Qadian.

3rd Edition—Revised & Enlarged. 1960

Edited by:- Barakat Ahmad Rajeke B.A.

QADIAN.

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The Last Message Of The Prince Of Peace

For

THE INDIAN BRETHREN

Dear Countrymen! It is after long drawn out struggle and tremendous sacrifices that our country has enjoyed the blessings of freedom. Today we stand with justifiable pride in the ranks of the free peoples of the world. But just to win freedom or style ourselves as free is hardly sufficient unless we imbibe the true spirit of freedom, enjoy the full benefits thereof and successfully establish it on firm and enduring foundations, thus ensuring its future security.

A little serious consideration of the present state of affairs in the country gives rise to mixed feelings. We are pleased that in a short space of time our country has made an appreciable progress and our leaders and statesmen have done their best to preserve our freedom and improve our lot. At the same time one is pained to find that we lack quite a number of virtues and moral qualities which are among the proud possessions of a free people. Most of us are particularly found wanting in religious and communal toleration There are very few people who have set examples of self-sacrifice and self-denial for others to follow and are prepared to live peacefully with others in spite of their religious and communal differences.

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Since the time of our freedom, we have been facing difficulties and hardships of many kinds, and in spite of the best efforts of the Government, they seem by no means, to be over. It hardly needs reminding that the major cause of these difficulties and calamities consist in the communal riots and difference; and it is no use denying this patent fact that the land that is ours, cannot enjoy real prosperity as long as the different groups and parties of the country do not see their way to creating in themselves good measure of fellow-feeling, love and tolerance.

True, the standards abroad, particularly in the neighbouring countries, produce repercussions at home. And in fairness (it must be admitted) that our own countrymen alone must not be blamed for the problems and hardships we are facing. Never-thless, it is our duty to reform and correct what we can, by ourselves, and have full faith in the bounty of God Almighty that He Who has blessed us with the gift of freedom and liberty shall create conditions conducive to our ultimately over-coming the difficulties which are beyond our control just now.

Dear Friends ! It was with a view to removing communal hatred and establishing a reign of peace among various factions of the country that a voice was raised some fifty two years back.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian addressed the Indian nation in his farewell message which he wrote two days before he passed away.

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It was published under the title "PAIGHAMSU-LEH" or "THE MESSAGE OF PEACE" It appeals to the different communities in India to live in an atmosphere of mutual peace and brotherhood, love and tolerance. He warned them beforehand of the harm that might be done to the best interests of the country through inner strife and mutual discord. He did this to save them from death and destruction, if only they could follow the guidance contained therein. In the following pages excerpts from the Message are given.

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

THE MESSAGE

"Friends, all of us whether Hindus or Mussalmans, are, notwithstanding hundreds of differences, one in believing in God as the Creator and Master of the world. Moreover our cause is common not only because we are all human beings, but also because, being inhabitants of one and the same land, we are related as neighbours to one another. It is but proper, therefore, that we should live as true and sincere friends, and sympathise with one another, in temporal and spiritual difficulties, and act as though we were parts of one whole, and limbs of one body.

Broad Sympathy

My dear countrymen. that religion is no religion which does not inculcate broad sympathy, nor does that man deserve to be called man who does not have a sympathetic soul within him. God has not withheld His bounty from any people. The powers and faculties which He bestowed on the ancient peoples of India, have also been bestowed on the Arabs, the Persians, the Syrians, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Europeans and the Americans. For all, the earth of God serves as a floor, and for the sake of all, the sun, the moon, and the stars give their light and perform such other functions as God has charged them with. All of them derive benefit from the air water, fire, earth and other things created by God, and all of them use the produce of the earth, its corn and

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its herbs, its flowers and its fruits. These liberal ways of God teach us that we also should do good to all mankind and should not have a cramped outlook, or a confined sympathy.

My friends. know it for certain that if any people should fail to honour the divine example, and fail to shape its conduct in occordance with this pure example, then that people shall soon be destroyed, and the evil consequence of its transgression shall be visited not only on itself, but also on its unborn generations. Ever since the world came into existance, the righteous ones of all lands have proclaimed that man survives by cultivating the fine attributes of God. and that both the physical and spiritual life of man depend on his conformity to divine morals from which all peace is to be derived

God Of All The Worlds

The holy Quran opens with the very verse which teaches this broad doctrine. The first verse of the opening Chapter of the Holy Quran says :

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ

"i. e. Glory to Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds." The 'worlds' include all the different peoples, different ages, and different countries. Opening the holy Quran with a verse embodying such breadth of view, is really a reply to nations who limit, each to itself, the universal bounty and providence of God, who regard other peoples as though they were not creation of God, or as though, having once been created, they have since been forsaken and forgotten completely by Him.

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It is to refute such erroneous doctrines that Almighty God has opened the holy Quran with the verse, "Glory to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds." In many places in the holy Book, has He warned us against the belief, that prophets have been raised from out of only one tribe, or been sent only to one country. God has not ignored any people or country from the distribution of His spiritual bounty. And this is a point which in the holy Quran has been brought home by many appropriate examples. For, just as almighty God has been providing for the physical necessities of every country, so olso has He been providing for the spiritual sustenance of every country. In one place, for instance, the holy Quran says.

وَإِنْ مِنْ أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ

i. e., "There is not a people to whom a warner has not been sent." (35 : 24).

It needs no argument, therefore, to say that the True and Perfect God, in whom we must all believe, is the Lord of all the Worlds. His core is not limited to any particular people, or any particular age, or any particular country. He is the Lord of all peoples, all ages, and all lands. He is the fountain-head of all grace, the source of all power, physical and spiritual, He nourishes all His creation, and on Him, depends everything that exists. His grace is universal, and is spread over all peoples, all countries and all ages. And it was so ordained, in order that no people might complain and say that God had poured down His blessings upon others but not upon them, nor that others had from Him, Books to

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guide them, but not they, nor that in other times, He revealed Himself through revelation, signs and miracles, but in their time remained hidden. God made His bounty, universal and eternal, and displayed such wide solicitude for mankind that not a people, nor an age was excluded from His physical and spiritual favours.

Message Of Peace

Divine bounty being so broad, it behoves us to imitate it. It is to invite you to do so, friends and countrymen, that I address you this appeal, entitled *Message of Peace*. In doing so, I pray with a most sincere heart, that almighty God may inspire you with truth, convince you of the sincerity that lies within my heart, and lead you not to ascribe this friendly invitation to any special motive or selfish design on my part. Friends, life hereafter remains obscure to most people, and the secret of it is revealed only to those who are consecrated to higher things. But the good or evil that pertains to this life can be appreciated by everybody who cares.

We all know that unity can solve difficulties which it is impossible to solve otherwise. It does not become any of us, therefore, that we should refuse ourselves the blessings of unity. Hindus and Mussalmans are communities about whom it is impossible to say that either one of them can, at any time, turn the other out of the country. On the other hand, the ties which unite them are so strong that it is impossible to cut them asunder now. If one of the two is visited by any general affliction, the other cannot afford to stand aside, with folded arms, but must suffer along with it. If one of them should

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seek out of scorn and pride, to bring the other into contempt, it also shall be branded with the same contempt. And if one of them does not sympathise with the other, that one shall also suffer with evil consequences of this lack of sympathy. If an individual belonging to one of these communities does anything to harm the other, he behaves like one who cuts off the branch upon which he is himself sitting. Friends, you are now educated and it is time you cleared your hearts of all hatreds, and advanced in mutual goodwill and friendliness ; it is time that unkindness gave way to charity. The journey of this life resembles a journey through the desert undertaken in the burning heat of the sun. To mitigate the heat of the journey, and to quench the thirst on the way what you need is the cold water of union and goodwill.

I invite you to peace at a time when peace is urgently needed. Disaster after disaster has come into the world. We have had earthquakes and famines, and the plague has not yet left us. Almighty God has even told me that if the world does not repent of its evil ways and does not forsake them all, disaster yet more terrible will visit our globe, and one disaster will not have left before another will have appeared ; and at length mankind, out of helplessness, will begin to ask what is going to happen. And many, under the strain of their suffering, will lose the balance of their minds. Beware, therefore, my fellow countrymen, and take care before the time arrives. Let Hindus and Mussalmans make peace between them. If one of them is doing to the other any wrong which pre-

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vents this peace, let it at once give up the wrong, or else it shall be responsible for all the ill-feeling between the two.

Religious Differences

It may be asked, how can there be unity when religious differences are making the gulf wider and wider every day? But I say in reply, a genuine religious difference should be inspired only by reasonable considerations. Why has man been endowed with reason, if he is not to see that what he believes or does is in accordance with reason. As soon as this is realised, it will be seen that minor differences cannot disunite us. Only those differences can disunite us which lead one party to vilify the honoured Founder of another, or which lead it to denounce the holy Book of another And *apropos* this, all lovers of unity will be glad to learn that the teaching of Islam is not necessarily opposed to the Vedic teaching. Nearly everything that Islam teaches is to be met with in some one or another of the various Vedic schools. For instance, though the new Arya Samaj movement maintains, as a fundamental Hindu doctrine, that Vedic revelation closed the door of all revelation, yet the great *Avatars* who have appeared since, in the Hindu faith, have shown by their very advent, that all revelation did not end with the revelation of the Vedas. Among these *Avatars* is the great Sri Krishna who is deeply reverenced in this country, particularly in the province of Bengal. Sri Krishna claimed to be the recipient of revelation. His followers indeed exalt him to the status of God Incarnate, but there can be no doubt at all, that he was a prophet of

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his time and an Avatar, and that he was favoured by God by the word of His mouth.

Guru Nanak

In the latter days, the Hindu community had Baba Nanak. the universally respected and honoured saint of this country, whose followers known as Sikh number at least two millions. Baba Nanak openly claimed to be the recipient of divine revelation, and evidence of his claim is met with in the Granths, as well as in the various *Janam Sakhis*. In one of his *Janam Sakhis* he says that he had it revealed to him by God that Islam was a true religion. It was because of this that he went on pilgrimage to Mecca, and adopted all the tenets of Islam. It is also true that miracles and signs were witnessed at his hands, and there can be no doubt that he was one of those chosen and righteous servants of God, whom God favours with the gift of His love. He was raised among the Hindus to bear witness to the fact that Islam was a divine religion. His sacred relics at Dera Baba Nanak, bear the clearest testimony to his profession of the Islamic *kalima*, "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Prophet," and those at Guru Har Sahai in the Ferozepore District, include a copy of the holy Quran. Who can then doubt that Nanak, who had a pure heart, and pure instincts, and who had exerted sincerely in the way of God, had divined the secret which remained closed to the view of the Pundits? By his claim to being the recipient of divine revelation, and by the signs which he showed, Guru Nanak completely refuted the doctrine which holds that there is to be no

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revelation, nor any signs of God after the Vedas. Nanak came as a blessing to the Hindus. He was, as it were the last *Avotar* of the Hindu religion who strove hard to rid Hindus of the hatred which they entertained towards Islam. But, to the great misfortune of this country, Hindus did not benefit much from the teaching of Baba Nanak. On the other hand, the Pundits persecuted this great man, for no other reason than that he proclaimed the truth of Islam, wherever he went. He had come to establish peace between Hinduism and Islam, but his voice fell on deaf ears. Had his teaching been heeded, differences between Hindus and Mussalmans would have disappeared, and the two communities would have been a single community today. How much it grieves me to think that a great soul came into the world, and passed away! and alas, ignorant men preferred to turn away from him. He showed, however, that the door to divine revelation can never be closed, and that heavenly signs are at all times manifested at the hands of His chosen servants. He also proclaimed that enmity to Islam was enmity to light that comes from heaven.

My Own Experience

My own experience in the matter is the same. I can testify that revelation and experience of God have not been intercepted in our time. God speaks even now, as he spoke in the past, and He listens as He listened in days of yore, and none of His perfect and holy attributes has, or shall ever, become lapsed. For nearly thirty

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years, I have been favoured with the word of God. He has manifesteds hundred of His signs at my hands, and these have been witnessed by thousands of men, and published in books and news-papers. There is not a people that has not witnessed one sign or another.

In the face of this strong and comulative testimony, how can we accept the doctrine with the Arya Samaj unjustly attribute to the Vedas, that the door of divine revelation was closed with the revelation of the Vedas, and that mankind have since been left to lean on the legends of the past. The doctrine has wrought another mischief. For, it is because of this doctrine, that the Arya Samaj treat the books of all other religions, as fabrications of man. And this, in spite of the fact, that other books can furnish stronger proof of their truth. They have the hand of God behind them, and have heavenly signs in their support. How can it be, that these books are not from God, while the Vedas are ? Reason itself revolts against the exclusiveness. The Person of God is hidden behind veils and veils and it is but meet that He should manifest Himself, in different countries, through different prophets, chosen from among different peoples. Man who is so easily given up to doubts, could have been saved from disbelief, in no other way.

It is impossible to conceive that God, Who is the Lord of the whole world, Who cause His sun to shine upon all people from East to West, and Who sends down His rain upon every tract of land, according to need, that this same God should, in matters spiritual, be so narrow

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minded, as to limit His favours for ever to one people, one country, one language and one age. What logic or philosophy, there is in this doctrine, I fail to understand. Who would contend that God does not hate to hear and understand the prayers of men in their different languages, but hates to reveal His word in any language but the language of the Vedas. This is a mystery which no one has been able to solve. As for myself, I regard the Vedas free from any such teaching—which is not only repugnant to reason, but also ascribes favouritism and partiality to the divine Being The truth is that when a long time passes after the revelation of a book, its followers, out of carelessness or design, consciously or unconsciously begin to make additions and alterations in it. As these interpolations come from different sources, they give rise to different schools and sects

Friends, ponder and say whether such beliefs are acceptable to reason,or whether there is anything in human conscience which responds to them. I cannot see how a rational being can, on the one hand, believe that God is the Lord of the whole universe, and assert on the other, that He has withdrawn His parental care from the greater part of the world, and that His solicitude is all for one people and one country. Is there anything corresponding to this in the way God has distributed His physical bounty ? If not, why should His spiritual fovours be distributed with such partiality ? If we only think, we can see the evil consequences to which such narrow views have led. I need hardly tell you how terrible are the con-

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sequences of insulting and reviling those holy prophets who count millions of men of all ranks, among their devoted servants and followers. There is no community but has more or less tasted the fruit of such vilification. Friends, long experience and trial have proved that to speak disrespectfully of the holy leaders of other people, and to hurl abuses at them, is a poison which undermines both body and soul. It brings double ruin in its wake. A country cannot have peace when different communities inhabiting it, attack and abuse the religious leaders of one another, and two communities cannot live in harmony with each other when one of or each of them speaks insultingly of the spiritual teachers of the other. Every man must have his feelings stirred, when he hears his prophet or founder insulted. Particularly Mussalmans are a people who without calling their holy Prophet God and Son of God, believe him to be greater than all righteous men that were ever born of woman. So it is not at all possible to live on peaceful terms with a true Muslim, unless the holy Prophet is invariably spoken of in respectful terms.

Muslim Attitude

We Muslims, on our part, never speak disrespectfully of the prophets of other communities. On the other hand our belief is that spiritual leaders who ever lived on this earth, who have been accepted by many millions of men, who have won the respect of a large portion of humanity and have been held in esteem for a very long time, were one and all true prophets of God, these circumstances

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alone constituting sufficient evidence of their truth with us. If they had not been sent by God, they would not have found acceptance with so many millions of men. God never grants to others the honour which He gives to His chosen ones. If an imposter sits in the seat of the elect of God, he is soon brought to naught.

Perfect Peace

If, in order to have perfect peace, the Hindus and the Arya Samajists are prepared to accept our holy Prophet (peace and the blessings of God upon him !), as a true prophet of God, and if they are prepared to give up denying and defaming him, I would be the first man to sign an agreement that we, the followers of the Ahmadiyya Movement, will always believe in the Vedas, and will speak respectfully of the Vedas and the Rishis. We will bind ourselves to pay the Hindus a penalty of Rs. 3,00,000, in case we fail to fulfil the agreement. If Hindus cordially wish for this peace, they also should sign a similar agreement, in some such terms :

> "We believe in Muhammad Mustafa (peace and the blessings of God upon him !), and regard him as a true prophet. We will always speak of him as respectfully as sincere believer should. And if we fail to fulfil this agreement we shall pay to the Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement Rs.3,00,000 as a penalty for breach of agreement."

The members of the Ahmadiya Movement now number not less than four hundred thousand. The sum

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of Rs. 3,00,000 is not a large sum. Other Muslims who are outside the Ahmadiyya Movement have no unity of aim or view. They recognise no leader whom they feel bound to obey. So I cannot say whether they would join us or not. Even me, they yet regard as an infidel and an anti-Christ. Still I hope that, if Hindus make this compact with me, other Muslims will not be so foolish as to cause their holy Prophet to be abused; by speaking insultingly of the scriptures and the leaders of so well-mannered a people. In that case, they themselves will be to blame if Hindus retaliate abuse by abuse. Such a thing being, in any case, inconsistent with honour and decency, I do not think that after the compact has been made, other Muslims will say things derogatory to the honour of Hindu scriptures and Hindu *Rishis*. But in order to make the agreement strong and sure, it will be necessary that it should be signed by at least 10,000 sensible men on both sides.

One Nation

Dear countrymen, there is nothing like peace. Let us become one nation and one people, by means of this compact. You see what discord there is in the land and how much the country has suffered on account of mutual recrimination. Come, and try now the blessings of mutual respect This is the only way to reconciliation. To try and seek peace along any other way would be to neglect a sore which is bright and smooth outside, but which is full of foul pus inside.

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Mutual Kindness

But, besides this agreement, it will be binding on us to act sympathetically towards our Hindu brethren, and invariably treat them with kindness and fellow-feelings. We shall have to abstain from everything that is likely to offend them, provided that what we abstain from is not one of those injunctions that are obligatory or desirable for us. So, if Hindus cordially accept our holy Prophet as a true prophet of God, and believe in him, the gulf which separates us from the Hindus owing to our slaughtering cows should also be made up. It is not obligatory on us to use everything that we think lawful. There are many things which we think to be lawful but which we never use. Te be kind and loterant to fellow beings is as important a religious injunction, as to believe in one God, and it is not against the Law of God, to abandon an unnecessary thing for a necessary one. Believing a thing to be lawful is quite different from using it. Religion consists in abstaining from forbidden things, seeking the pleasure of God, showing kindness and sympathy to the creatures of God, believing in all the prophets that were raised from time to time for the reformation of the world, without making any distinction between them, and disposing ourselves kindly towards all human beings—that is the gist of Islam.

I do not mean to lay any unjust charge at the door of any particular community, nor do I intend to offend anybody. But with a deep sigh I feel constrained to say that great injustice is being done to Islam and the holy

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Quran. Islam is a holy and peaceful religion which never attacked the leader of any community, and the Quran is an honourable book which laid the foundation of peace among nations by accepting the prophets of all nations—a distinction which the holy Quran alone possesses among the scriptures of the world. Regarding the prophets of the world the Quran says :

لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ اَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهٗ مُسْلِمُوْنَ

i. e. "O Believers, sav, 'We believe in all the prophets of the world and make no distinction between them, accepting some and rejecting others." (2 : 136:3:83) If there exists any other revealed book with such a peaceful teaching, let it be named. The Quran does not restrict the universal mercy of God to any particular race. It accept all the prophets of the house of Israel, such as Jacob, Isaac, Moses, David and Jesus, and does not call any prophet,he may be of Persia, India or any other country a liar or an imposter. On the other hand, it plainly declares that there have been prophets among all peoples, and in all lands, and thus it lays the foundations of peace among mankind. It is therefore very painful to find that the Prophet of Peace should be reviled and treated with contempt by everybody.

Grave Wa ning

My dear countrymen, I have not said this to offend you or to injure your feelings. I wish to tell you from the best of motives that those who have made it a point to abuse and attack the Prophets of other communities, as if it formed part of their religion, are not only sinners in the sight of God for their transgressions and for

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making unfounded attacks, but they are guilty also of sowing the seed of discord and enmity between different communities. Tell me, if a person abuses another man's father or calumniates his mother, does he not really attack the honour of his own parents ? And if the person whose parents he had abused, pays him back in the same coin, the man who took the initiative in the matter—may we not hold him to be the cause of the abuse, and may we not regard him as the enemy of his own parent's honour ?

Mark how God teaches us manners and regard for the honour of others. He says :

لَا تَسُبُّوا الَّذِيْنَ يَدْعُوْنَ مِنْ دُوْنِ اللّٰهِ
فَيَسُبُّوا اللّٰهَ

"Do not abuse the idols of the idolators, for if you do it, they will abuse your God in return, not knowing Who God is" (6: 109). Though according to the teaching of the Quran, idols have no worth at all, yet God enjoins upon Muslims to abstain even from abusing the idol's lest the idol worshippers get excited and begin to revile God, and Muslims themselves become the means of having their God abused. Compare with this the conduct of those who abuse the great Prophet of Islam who speak of him in defamatory terms, and make wild and savage attacks on his honour and character. Our holy Prophet is he on the mention of whose name, the great monarchs of Islam come down from their thrones, and pride themselves upon being counted among the humblest of his servants. Is not this honour from God ? To treat with contempt one who is honured

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by God is to fight with God Himself. Our holy Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad Mustfa, is that chosen Prophet of God, to aid whom and to demonstrate whose greatness, God has shown wonderful signs to the world. Is it not the hand of God that has made 200,000,000 Muslims prostrate themselves at this door ? Every prophet had had some proof of the truth of his teachings, but proofs of the truth of the holy Prophet which the world has witnessed and continues to witness, have no parallel in any other prophet.

When the earth becomes corrupt with sin and wrong-doing and mischief and transgression outbalance virtue, then the mercy of God demands that a messenger should be raised to reform the world. Disease obviously calls for a physician. Hindus should be able to understand this point. They believe that the Vedas were sent not at a time when the earth was flooded with sin, but when it was free from it. When, therefore, God sent a guide when the earth was un-corrupted, is it not even more reasonable that He should have raised a prophet when a flood of sin was raging with full fury over every part of the world ? I do not think any of you is ignorant of the historical fact that when the throne of prophet-hood was graced by the holy Prophet, such darkness prevailed over the world that there was not a corner of the earth which was free from vice and corruption. This, Pandit Daya Nand himself recognises. He says that even in Arya Varta idolatory had taken the place of the worship of God; and much corruption had found its way into the Vedic Dharma.

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This immediate object of the holy Prophet was to reform the Arabs. Arabs were then in such a degraded condition that they could hardly be called men. There was no evil but was to be found in them and there was no vice but prevailed among them. Thieving and dacoity formed their business and the murder of innocent human beings was to them like trampling under foot an insect. They killed orphans to appropriate the r property, and buried their daughters alive. They took pride in adultry and openly spoke of indecent things in their poems, which were immoral in the highest degree Drinking prevailed to such an extent that no house was free from it, and in gambling they were worse than any other people. Being worse than snakes and wolves they were a disgrace even to animals.

Purification of Morals

But when the holy Prophet rose to regenerate these people and when he devoted his whole attention to purifying their hearts and casting his holy influence on them, in a few days they grew from savages into men, from men into civilized men, from civilized men into Godly men, and finally they became so filled with the love of God that they bore pain and persecution, for His sake, with the most admirable fortitude. They were subjected to all kinds of tortures. They were lashed with cruelty, dragged on burning sand, put in fetters, and starved to the point of death. But still they persevered, and only used each affliction as a step towards further advance. Many had their children slaughtered before their eyes, many were hanged by the neck in the

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presence of their children. A contemplation of the readiness with which they laid down their lives draws tears from the eyes. What was it that drew them so powerfully towards Islam and worked such a change in them that they threw themselves at the feet of one who once walked the streets of Mecca, a poor, solitary, helpless individual ? It was the hand of God that was working their hearts. Some great magnet evidently raised them from the depths of degradation to the spiritual heights above.

The wonder is that before they embraced Islam, most of them were the mortal enemies of the holy Prophet and were thirsting for his blood. To my mind, there could be no greater miracle than that a poor, helpless and solitary individual should have purged a people's hearts of malice, and should have so drawn them towards himself that they cast away their costly raiment and in sack cloth presented themselves to him as his humble servants.

Charge of Jehad

Some thoughtless men bring the charge of *Jehad* against Islam. They think that all these men were compelled to accept Islam by the sword Woe to those who have transgressed all limits in their injustice towards Islam and in concealing the truth about it ! What has come to them that they turn away so easily from the real fact ? Our holy Prophet did not appear in Arabia as a king. It could not be supposed that as he had with him kingly majesty and power, people flocked to his standard in order to protect their lives. It was a poor, helpless

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and lonesome individual who began to preach the Unity of God and his own prophethood. What sword did he then have the fear of which caused men to adopt his religion ? If they did not accept his religion of their own free will, which king's forces did he summon and whose aid did he seek, to compel people to enter his religion ? Seekers after truth. know it for certain that these charges have been fabricated by those who are sworn enemies of Islam. Consult history, and you wlll find that our holy Prophet was an orphan whose father had passed away shortly before his birth and whose mother also died when he was a child only a few years old. Then the child, sustained by the protecting hand of God, grew up under the care of God unsupported by man. During the days of his orphange and helplessness, he even tended the sheep of his employers. He had no guardian except God. He was twenty five years old, but not even one of his uncles would give his daughter in marriage to him, as he had no means to support a family. He was not lettered and knew no trade or profession. When he attained the age of forty, his heart was drawn towards God. There was a cave, named Hira, at a distance of a few miles from Mecca. He would go to that cave alone, hide himself there & worship God. Thus one day when he was secretly occupied in divine contemplation, God mainfested Himself to him saying "The world has abandoned the path of God and the earth has become corrupt with sin, so I appoint you as My Apostle that you may warn the people and invite them to hearken to God before the divine punishment overtakes them." This

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message filled him with awe, and he humbly said in reply that he was unlettered, and unable even to read. Then God opened his heart and filled him with divine wisdom, and spiritual knowledge and illumined him with His light. His spiritual powers attracted the low and the humble towards him, and they became his devoted servants. The great and the haughty girded up their loins to oppose him, until at last they even determined to put him to death. Many of his followers, both male and female, were killed, and at last the house of the holy Prophet himself was besieged. But who can destroy a man whom God wishes to save? God sent His word to the holy Prophet informing him of the intentions of his enemies, and bidding him to leave the city, and promising him His assistance. The holy Prophet accordingly left the city in the company of Abu Bakr and the two hid themselves in a cave, called Thor, where they stayed for two nights. The enemy persued them tracking their footsteps. Coming up to the cave Thor, their guide would go no further, saying that the Prophet and his companions were in the cave or they had gone to heaven. But who can encompass the wonders of the divine Power? In a single night a spider covered the opening of the cave with its web, and a pigeon made its nest at the mouth of the cavern, even laying its eggs. So when the tracker nearly persuaded the men go to into the cave, an old man among them cried: "This man is a fool. This web was at the mouth of the cave even before Muhammad was born." Hearing this,all dispersed and nobody cared to examine the interior of the cave.

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Departure to Medina

After this, the holy Prophet escaped to Medina, where most men accepted him. This infuriarated the Meccans still more, for they were furious at losing their victim. Thenceforth all their efforts were concentrated on bringing about the annihilation of the holy Prephet. The small band of Muslims who had accepted the holy Prophet had also left their native city to seek protection in other lands and some of them had sought shelter under the king of Abyssinia. The few that remained in Mecca, being too Poor to migrate were bitterly persecuted. Their cries of pain are referred to even in the Quran.

The cruelties that the Meccans perpetrated on the poor Muslims exceeded all limits. They began to murder poor women and orphans in tender years. Some women had their legs tied to two camels which were then made to run in opposite directions—the poor creatures torn in two pieces each.

When the barbarities of the disbelieving Quraish reached the limit, God, Who at last took pity on His people, sent word to the holy Prophet, saying the cries of the oppressed had been heard, the faithful were now permitted to take up arms against the oppressors. Those that had smitten the innocent with the sword, were to perish by the sword. But still the faithful were not to transgress, for God did not love the transgressors.

This is the truth about the Islamic *Jehad* which has been most cruelly misrepresented. God is indeed tole-

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rant, but when the mischief of a people exceed all limits, God does not leave the oppressors without punishment and Himself brings about the means of their destruction, Who ever told our opponents that Islam was propagated by the sword ? God says in the Quran:

لَآ اِكْرَاهَ فِى الدِّيْنِ

"There is no compulsion in faith". (2: 255) This being the commandment of God in His holy Book, who gave order to exercise compulsion ? And what means were there to constrain men to accept the Faith. Does compulsion create in those compelled the devotion and constancy with which followers of the holy Prophet fought against overwhelming odds without a reward ? When they numbered two or three hundred they fought against thousands,and when they numbered thousands they defeated millions. To protect Islam from the attacks of the enemy, they allowed their heads to be cut off like sheep. With their blood, they bore testimony to the truth of Islam. They had a great passion to spread the message of the Unity of God to the ends of the earth. They went to the deserts of Africa, under severe privations, only to preach the Unity of God. Suffering all sorts of troubles they went to China, not as warriors but as preachers, and their preaching was blessed with such good result that millions of men professed the faith at their hands. Then they came to India, as dervishes in sackcloth, delivered their message to the natives of Arya Varta many of whom embraced Islam. And in the West they carried their message of the Unity of God to the farthest ends of Europe.

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Sword or Spirit ?

Say truly, was that the work of men who had accepted Islam at the point of the sword ? Who professing to be believers were unbelievers at heart ? Nay, that was the work of men whose heart were full of the light of faith, and in whose hearts the love of God reigned supreme. What is the teaching of Islam ? The chief object of Islam is to establish the unity and majesty of God on earth, to extirpate sin and to weld all nations into one by collecting them around one Faith."

—:o:—

A part of the message of the Spiritual Reformer of these days has been quoted above. This Message having been ignored, although it was placed before the country at the most opportune time, we had to face and suffer terrible consequences and misfortunes. It is a woeful story which need not be recalled. The Apostle of God, described the change of population as leading to ruin and disaster. But the enemies of the country and humanity resorted to this unnatural course, as a result of which millions of people were totally ruined and rendered homeless. Won't we for future take lesson from this disaster ? Does any sensible person and well-wisher of the country cherish the idea of the same bloody drama to be enacted in the other parts of the country as well ? Mr. Braham Dutt ' in the Daily Fronties Mail Dehra Dun", dated 12-12-48, referring to this very message of the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiya Movement writes :—

"Forty year ago, even before Mahatma Gandhi came

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on the political horizon of India, Mirza Ghulam Ahmed who proclaimed Himself Massiah in 1891. put forward before the people proposals in the shape of a pamphlet PAIGHAMSULEH, which would bring about concord, unity and understanding. He asked Muslims to give up cow slaughter and Hindus not to criticise Muslim religious heads. He wanted to create among the people a spirit of toleration. brotherhood and amity. And credit must be given to this man whose vision penetrated the thick veil of the distant future and pointed the way. If in their selfishness and wrong leadership the people failed to see the way the fault was certainly their and they amply deserved the harvest of hate they had sown.'

Brethren ! A warner of God, did warn us in time. He verily foretold beforehand in this message the troubles and disasters which were going to befall the nation on account of their mutual discord. Alas, our countrymen did not wake up from their slumbers, they rejected with contempt and disdain the call of their Benefactor and Reformer, consequently leading themselves to distress and perdition

Irreparable loss, no doubt, has been done to life, wealth and honour. Neverthless, if we take lesson from the last bloody episode and in future accept the advice of the Reformer of the present Age and the Promised One of all nations, try to excel others in virtues and set an example of humanity, and if various communities of this country live with mutual love and affection like a free nation, all our misfortuns will vanish in no time

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and we can occupy our rightful place in the ranks of the progressive nations of the world. Otherwise, beware we may face greater troubles and calamities in future, just as we have already faced them on account of turning a deaf ear to the advice of God's Apostle.

Those persons who give expression to tneir factional feelings on the plea that others are also resorting to the same hateful deeds are greatly mistaken If unity and mutual good will are natural and good qualities, no matter if any individual or nation in the world possess them or not we should endeavour to imbibe these qualities in ourselves.

If any body treads the wrong path, it is to his own detriment. It is in no way an act of wisdom for us to imitate others in vicious deeds and work up our own destruction.

Brethren ! Let us make a firm determination that henceforth we will live together with mutual love and peace and make religious and communal toleration our distinguishing characteristic and motto, and in this way solve the difficult problems of our country and help it in attaining its place in the ranks of the eminent countries of the world.

Dear countrymen, the thorns of religious and communal hatred and enmity sown in our midst, have torn asunder our bodies and souls. Come, let us make effort in right earnest and plant the tree of love and affection and make every sacrifice so that we and our progeny may refresh our bodies and souls by means of its sweet fruits and our country may prosper in every respect.

Lord ! Grant us the power to do this, Amen.

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From The Writing Of Hazrat Ahmad

DISASTROUS CALAMITIES

"The days are near, nay, they are at the door, when the world shall see an unparallelled scene of devastation. Not only will earthquakes come, but other calamities from heaven and earth will also visit the earth. All this will be brought about because men have forsaken God and with all their heart and soul are bent upon the world. Had I not come these calamities would also have been put off for a while, but with my appearance the secret designs of the wrath of God have been manifest, for He says that punishment is not sent upon people until a messenger is raised.

O Europe! Thou art not secure nor art thou O Asia! and ye that dwell in islands no self-made deity shall save you. I see cities crumbling down and I find inhabited places in ruin. He has remained silent for a time, but He will now reveal His face and strike terror in the hearts of men. Let him who hath ears hear, for the hour is nigh.

I have striven to gather you under the wings of God's peace, but the decrees of fate are inevitable.

Verily I say unto you that the turn of "this country" is drawing near. The days of Noah will you again witness and the scene of Lot's land you will see with your own eyes."

But God is slow in His wrath; repent that ye may be forgiven. He who forsakes God is a worm and not a man, and he who does not fear Him is dead and not living."

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Future of Ahmadiyya Movement

"Almighty God has informed me that He will spread my movement over the whole world and my followers would be made dominent over all other people. They will be so proficient in knowledge and realisation of spiritual matters that by the Light of the Truth, that would be with them,and by the arguments and signs with which they woulu he gifted they yould stop all questioning criticism.

Every nation will drink from this spring and this movement would flourish vigorously and will grow till it covers the whole world. There would arise obstacles and there would be trials, but God will remove them all and will fulfill his promise. And God addressing me said : 'I will give you blessing after blessing till Kings will seek blessing from thy garments.' So let those who hear remember and let them treasure these prophecies in their safes that this is the word of God which must one day be fulfilled.

A Divine Prophecy

"Let the whole world bear witness that I prophesy in the name of the Lord of earth and heaven that He will spread my followers in all countries and **make them overcome every other people by reason and arguments.** The days are approaching and are very near when the religion preached by me will be the only religion that will be regarded with honour on the face of the earth. Almighty God will bless this religion and this system in a wonderful manner, and will bring to

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naught every one who thinks of destroying it. The victory which it will gain will be a lasting victory and its supremacy will continue to the end of days.....I have been sent to sow a seed and I have sown it. It will now grow and bear flowers and fruits in due season. There is none who can uproot it."

An Indian Prophet

Dr. Shanker Das Mehra, M. B B. S , Delhi, writes in "The Statesman" dated Feb. 12, 1949 :

"In the holy city of Qadian was born an Indian Prophet who impregnated his surrounding with his piety and character. These qualities are reflected in the lives of lakhs of his follwers. Ahmadies are a community with a constructive out-look and a lawabiding temperament. They are singularly free from crime, as judicial records bear out. Even in the recent communal upheaval, they kept their hands clean. This could not have happened without the good teachings of their master. The present Khalifa of Qadian, Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmed, is an embodiment of sweetness.'

'Few personalities have influenced the Muslim community as did Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani (peace be on him). His greatness could be gauged from the intensity of propaganda against his personality, creed and teachings. The orthodox were afraid that they would lose their following.'

"In the interest of peace and humanity let the Indian Government not neglect this truly nationalist Indian Community. They would in the course of time play an important role in cementing our bond with the Muslim world and thus making India great."

THE END

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Printed at Rama Art Press, Santokhsar, Amritsar by
Pt. Gian Chand Burmi Printer & Published by
The Nazir Dawat-o-Tabligh, Qadian.

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